Figure 1. ***a***, Storage of rainwater after implementation of IWMP in the field. ***b***, Minor pit for conservation of run-off water in the field for recharge to groundwater.

The IWMP has showed encouraging results in the drought-prone Nawapada–Kalahandi–Bargarh districts of the western Orissa. These districts suffer from long, dry spells in summer and are located in the rain-shadow region. The study area is part of the KBK (Kalahandi–Bolangir–Koraput) districts, which are drought-prone. The area presents conspicuous geomorphic variations comprising moderately high hills, isolated hillocks, undulating plains, intermontane valleys, etc. Out of the average annual rainfall of 1378 mm, a major part goes as run-off and groundwater recharge is less. To enhance groundwater recharge, watershed development is important at the micro-level. The Bhoomijal Samvardhana Puraskar for East Zone in 2007 was awarded to Chilnala Watershed Association, Kurumpuri Gram Panchayat, Nawapada District, Orissa[1]. The association has treated 612.29 ha of land through watershed development work. The implementation of different conservation structures has checked soil erosion, and has results in the improvement of soil moisture, soil quality and vegetation, enhancement of groundwater recharge, etc. Earlier the dug wells were dry in March, but now people in the region are able to harvest crops in the rabi season also. Due to improvement in soil moisture there is increase in plant growth and increase in crop yield. Check in soil erosion leads to land reclamation. As a result, people are involved in pisciculture in their ponds, vegetable cultivation and improved agriculture in their fields. Figure 1 *a* shows storage of water in field. Figure 1 *b* depicts a minor pit for interception of run-off water for recharge to groundwater. IWMP can be implemented throughout peninsular India to reduce run-off and reclaim wastelands. It can also prevent further degradation of lands in semi-arid areas.

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'Congress grass'

The fact that the earliest record of the existence of *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. (Asterceae) in India was revealed way back in 1814 by Roxburgh is not widely known both to several scientists and lay persons. Paul[1] deserves the gratitude of all. I was a victim of its allergic effects when I visited Pune in the early 1960s. I had constant sneezing, cough and fever. A physician prescribed an antiallergic tablet, and advised me to cover my nose with a handkerchief when I came across the weed to avoid inhaling the minute allergic particles floating in the air. Since then, the Congress government decided to import wheat seeds under the USA PL-480 scheme which contained the seeds of the offending weed, it was derisively called 'Congress grass'.

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